

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1852

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016

Shale Gas Exploration

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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has discovered shale gas reserves in the country and if so, the details thereof and the present status of shale gas exploration in the country, field/State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the potential of shale gas in the country has been identified and any time line fixed for starting commercial production and if so, the details thereof, field/State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the target set by the Government to make shale gas available for commercial use in the country along with the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): In order to exploit shale gas & Oil in the country, Government of India on 14th October, 2013 announced the Policy Guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies (ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL)) in their onland Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) / Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) areas awarded under the nomination regimes.

In pursuance of this Policy, under the first phase of assessment ONGC has identified and initiated shale gas and oil exploration activities in 50 PEL/PML areas; and OIL has identified and initiated shale gas exploration activities in 6 PEL/PML areas. The State-wise details of the identified shale gas blocks are given below:

S.No.

State/UT

Number of Blocks

1

Andhra Pradesh

10

2

Arunachal Pradesh

2

3

Assam

6

4

Gujarat

28

5

Tamil Nadu

9

6

Rajasthan

1

Total

56

So far, ONGC has drilled 20 assessment wells for Shale gas and oil. OIL has completed G&G studies and Geochemical analysis in its identified areas. Further, OIL has completed Conventional Core in one well in Rajasthan.

In order to promote exploration and exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbon resources such as CBM, shale oil & gas, Government has recently approved a Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) wherein companies can explore and produce all kind of hydrocarbons including shale oil/gas, CBM & gas hydrate, etc. under single license.
